

III. Remarks

A. Status of the Application

Claims 2, 9-13, 15, 16, 26, 27, 30-33, and 35-40 are pending. No claims are added or canceled by the present paper. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

B. Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 2, 9, 26, 27, 30-33, and 35-40 stand provisionally rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 101-103, 106-110, 112, and 113 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/924,298. A terminal disclaimer is filed herewith. Accordingly, Applicants request that the provisional double patenting rejection of claims 2, 9, 26, 27, 30-33, and 35-40 be withdrawn. Further, as no rejection of claims 10-13 was set forth in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

It is believed that all matters set forth in the Office Action have been addressed and that all of the pending claims 2, 9-13, 15, 16, 26, 27, 30-33, and 35-40 are in condition for allowance. Thus, a formal notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicant's undersigned attorney would expedite consideration of the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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